

OUR TOWN

A Digital Newsletter from the Town of Dover, MA

Short Month, Long List of Dover Activities

February is a busy month for Dover. State Rep. Denise Garlick will present her updates and goals to the residents of Dover on Feb. 7, via Zoom. The Dover Library announces upcoming programs for February. If you have been starting the new year by de cluttering, take a look at the Recycling Committee updates on the swap shop and donations to New Life Charity. Always wondered how Dover's Fire and Ambulance Department worked? Curious about what the adequate ice depth is on Channing Pond so you can safely go ice skating? We've got you covered in the February issue of **'OUR TOWN.'**

If you are part of a town committee and would like to submit content for the March issue, please contact Ruth Townsend at aaandrtownsend@yahoo.com



Sign up for



Sign up [HERE](#) for updates and to subscribe to this newsletter.

- Go to the section 'News Flash' (last section on list)
- Click 'I Dover Town News'

VOL. 1, NO. 4, FEBRUARY 2022

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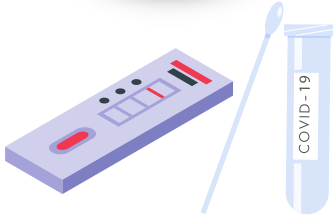


Board of Selectmen



The Town purchased 2,000 COVID-19 rapid test kits through a statewide contract using ARPA funds in January. A drive-up distribution event will be held Thursday, Feb. 3, 11am-3pm at the Transfer Station. This will be our first event and there is a limit of one (1) kit per household which equals two (2) tests. For more information on this event and future events, keep checking the [Town's COVID-19 webpage](#) and [sign up for alerts](#) via email or text.

All updates for this event and future events will be on the Town's website, social media channels, and news alerts.



The Board of Selectmen would like to remind Dover residents that every home in the U.S. is eligible to order four (4) free at-home COVID-19 tests from the Federal Government. Orders usually ship in 7-12 days and will be delivered by the USPS. To order these free tests, click [HERE](#).

State Representative Denise Garlick

Representative Denise Garlick



State Representative – 13th Norfolk District

Serving Needham, Dover, and Precincts 1 and 2 in Medfield

REMINDER - Dover's Annual Report Feb. 7

Please save the date for Rep. Denise Garlick's Annual Report to the Dover Community where she will present her legislative and community activities during 2021 as well as her priorities for 2022. This event will be held, virtual on Monday, February 7, at 7 p.m. via Zoom and will also air live on DSCTV. Follow this link to register: <https://repgarlick.com/report22/>

Community Center Building Committee

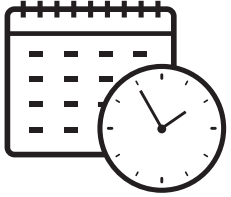
On January 18, 2022, the Community Center Building Committee met to review their current Budget status and to review the Finishes (Internal and External) Sub-Committee recommendations. The Committee received two independent firm cost estimates for the construction phase of the project prior to the meeting. This was their third check on costs over the past few years. Because of inflationary increases in construction costs and material shortages, their estimated budget is slightly over by \$300,000. Considering a \$18.8M budget, they are cautiously optimistic about where they stand. The Building Committee at their meeting made some changes in materials and small reduction in scope to bring them back in budget, establishing a plan to bring in the items reduced at a later date if they are able. None of the changes affect the change in design of the building both externally and internally.



The Finishes Subcommittee made thoughtful recommendations to the look of the brick exterior and window accents. They presented flooring materials and colors for the lobby, hallways, Community Room and Recreation space. They also presented wall covering colors. Take a look at the Power Point presentation on the Dover Town [website](#).

CCBC Continued

At their January 20, 2022 meeting, the Board of Selectmen received a report from Treasurer-Collector Jerry Lane and Interim Finance Director Carl Valente on the successful sale of the Town of Dover bond to fund our Building Project. This may well result in additional savings to the town in terms of borrowing costs.



The Building Committee has meetings planned for February 7 and February 28 via Zoom. Click [HERE](#) for more details including agenda and zoom link.



Parks and Recreation



Get your skates on!

During the winter months Channing Pond is available for Outdoor Ice Skating once Parks & Recreation has ensured adequate ice depths. 4-5 inches of ice is needed in order to allow outdoor public ice skating. Ice depths are measured manually, with Parks staff checking various locations around the pond for the minimum ice depths before declaring it open, and this process is continued throughout the winter months. Reminder: All outdoor ice skating at Channing Pond is **AT YOUR OWN RISK** and minors must be accompanied by an adult whenever at Channing Pond.

Parks and Recreation Continued



Here's more information to help you stay safe and have fun!

- Outdoor Ice Skating is permitted during daylight hours and whenever pond lights are on.
- Pond lights at Channing Pond are on a timer that will automatically turn on at dusk, when there is adequate ice depth.
- Lights will remain on from dusk until 8:00pm on weeknights, and dusk until 9:00pm on weekends and school breaks.

Parks staff does all that they can to keep ice surfaces clear for resident use, but in the event of winter storms and clean-ups, snow removal on roadways will take precedence, and Channing Pond will be declared closed and may not be used until conditions improve and the department re-opens the pond to the public. Visit the Winter ice depth updates page for detailed outdoor skating updates including ice surface status, hours of permitted use, pond lights schedule and pond information.

**ALWAYS RESPECT ALL SIGNS POSTED AT CHANNING POND & DO NOT VANDALIZE
TOWN OF DOVER LOCKS & PROPERTY!**



**Click on P&R logo for more info
on activities**

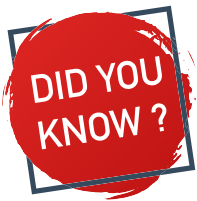


**Dover PARKS &
RECREATION**
where you live, where you grow

Council on Aging (COA)

The Dover Council on Aging is thankful for our community partnerships and the many volunteers that help these organizations run. The Dover Cultural Council awarded a grant last spring to Chickering GROWS, a PTO sponsored initiative that encourages students to learn about gardening while connecting with the larger community. The grant provided birdhouse kits to the Chickering community, and the PTO shared 10 kits with the COA. Troop 1 Dover Boy Scouts then assembled and painted these kits and mounted them in the yards of our seniors. Now we're ready for the bluebirds to move in this spring!

The COA has a newsletter!
**Click [here](#) to view the
current issue and be up-to-
date on all of their services
and events!**



Our Schools

Minuteman Career & Technical High School

There is lots going on at Minuteman: The School Committee held its open Budget Hearing on January 27 via Zoom. The FY23 overall Operating & Capital increase is 4.96% primarily because of a continuing increase in member district town enrollments and the planned decrease in out-of-district income due to a decrease in out-of-district available spaces. This will continue for the following year and then there should be 100% in district enrollment.

Starting this coming fall they will have their first, in many years, waiting list for in-district students. Career & Technical high school education is experiencing a huge increase in interest, especially because parents and students are recognizing a pathway to continuing education for career tech students into colleges and universities.



As of October 1, 2021, Dover has three students enrolled at Minuteman. Dover had a student in last June's graduating class and in January another Dover student transferred into Minuteman. Based on the Regional Agreement formula for assessing budget obligations Dover's FY23 assessment decreases by \$8,871 from FY22.

For additional information click [here](#) for a description of the FY23 Budget.

Chickering Elementary School

As the cold weather rolls in, everyone at Chickering is staying snug and busy. Students are still enjoying plenty of outside time and are deeply engaged in their learning.

Spelling Bee Winners

We hosted our Scripps Spelling Bee competition on Jan 12.

Over 30 students, grades K-5 participated in the virtual competition.

Congratulations to our top finishers:

4th place - Akshay Venkataraman

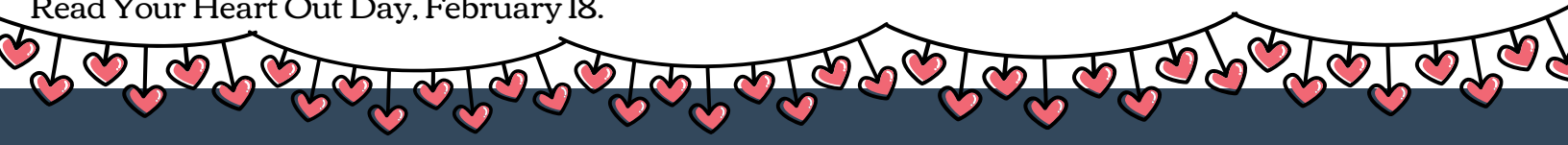
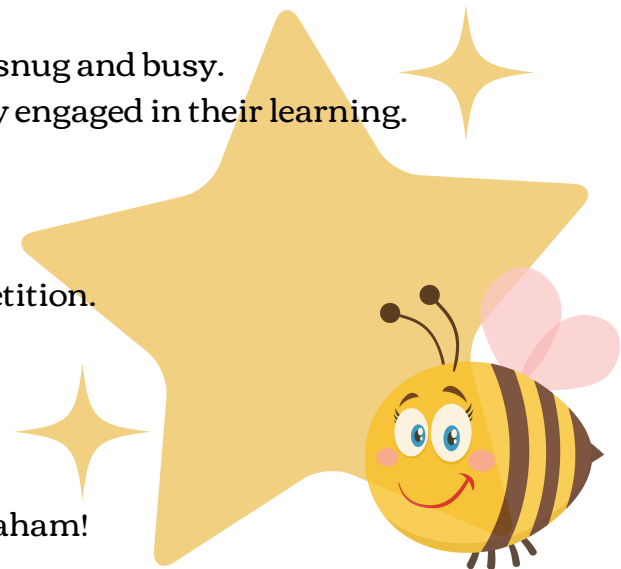
3rd place - Kennedy Walls

2nd place - Sonali Koo

2022 Chickering Spelling Bee Champion - Mark Thampy-Abraham!

From the heart

February has many special days and events in store! We are looking forward to celebrating the 100th day of school, anticipated for February 9, Valentine's Day, a Spirit themed Week and Read Your Heart Out events. The PTO will sponsor our Books from the Heart Sale, with students and families purchasing books to dedicate to staff to replenish our school library. The book fair culminates with Read Your Heart Out Day, February 18.



Our Schools Continued

DS Winter High School Sports are underway!

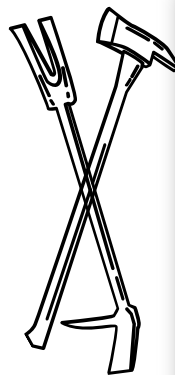
Boys indoor track and field finish 5-0 and TVL Small Champs in the regular season, and girls indoor track and field finish 4-1 and second to Medway in the TVL small. This is the best finish for the girls team and the 4th TVL Small title in a row for the boys! Boys basketball is cruising along at 8-1 on the season, and girls basketball is 2-3 and looking to bounce back this week. Girls ice hockey earned their first win last week vs. East Bridgewater, and the boys ice hockey team improved to 4-5 with a solid team win over Holliston MLK day. Alpine and Nordic started their races earlier this month. Boys and girls Alpine both sit atop the league in first place, and Nordic is having a lot of great personal best finishes. The boys swim and dive team is 3-2 and the girls swim and dive time is 1-3 on the season, and both teams have had multiple state qualifiers. The gymnastics team is 2-2 on the season, and just won a big meet vs. a very strong Aloginquin program. The regular season runs until February break, and the MIAA state tournament begins after February break.

Fire & Ambulance

Dover's Fire & Ambulance Services

Dover is a Call Department, which means members are "on call" to respond to a range of emergencies. On call Firefighters and EMS professionals are thoroughly trained and paid for their services. Services range from responding to emergency medical calls, fighting fires, participating in mutual aid calls, and representing the department at community events. To be admitted, requirements include a Dover residency and or working for the Town and or schools, along with a medical clearance and required training. Some trainings include inhouse trainings, events with other Fire and Ambulance Departments in surrounding communities, and courses at the Massachusetts Fire Academy.

There are 36 members, most who have regular full-time jobs that are non-fire service related. You can find electricians, mechanics, medical and IT professionals, landscapers, and municipal workers. Members bring in a diverse range of work experience and transferable skills that greatly enrich the department. They are our friends and neighbors, who when called upon, become emergency first responders ready to serve and protect the Town of Dover.



For more information and a list of the members, check out the [2021 Board of Fire Engineers Report](#)

*Please note in the 2021 report there's a reference to the lack of water to support firefighting. You should be aware that our fire trucks are equipped to carry 10,000 gallons of water to any fire in our town. Also, we depend on mutual aid from our neighbors to bring in their water.

The Warrant Committee

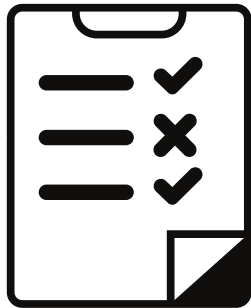
The Warrant Committee started meeting with Town boards and departments regarding the operating budgets for FY23 in December and holds these meetings throughout the winter. In preparation for Open Hearing and then Town Meeting, the Warrant Committee vets and makes recommendations on each article the town is asked to vote on at Town Meeting. These recommendations can be found in the [Blue Book](#) that is mailed out to residents prior to Town Meeting. All Warrant Committee meetings are open to the public and they are eager to hear citizen comments at Open Hearing where each member formulates their own opinion about the articles. Open Hearing is a public conversation prior to Town Meeting where citizens can question and offer opinions on each article being put forward at Town Meeting. To review everything Town Meeting click [HERE](#). To keep up with the Town's finances, click [HERE](#).

Open Hearing is set for Monday, March 14, 2022

Planning Board

Visual Preference Survey Now Live!

The Dover Planning Board would like to hear from you to help create a cohesive vision for the Village Center! Please take our 5-10 minute survey to help inform potential zoning changes and design standards for our village. Click [HERE](#) to take the survey.



PLANNING BOARD
VILLAGE CENTER VISIONING

VISUAL PREFERENCE SURVEY

Take the survey today and tell us what you like about Dover's Village Center and what you hope to see and do there in the future!

[ONLINE SURVEY](#)

WWW.DOVERMA.GOV



Town Clerk - Dog License Renewal

Dog License Renewals

Let's face it, wintertime is ruff. Here's something you can check off the to-do list: be the ulti-mutt dog owner and renew your dog's license at the Town Clerk's paw-ffice! They are due by March 15. Please remember to provide a current rabies certificate with your application!



Recycling Committee

Swap Shop Returning Soon

The reopening of the expanded swap shop is in view! Residents will again be able drop off reusable items that are functional, clean, unbroken and complete that you no longer need but someone else can use. The Recycling Committee will provide details and volunteer signup information with announcements sent by a town email alert and on the Dover residents' Facebook page and Nextdoor.com. Your trash is another Doverite's treasure!



Donate Your Unwanted Furniture

Dover Recycling Committee will provide furniture collections on Saturdays February 19, March 19 and subsequently the third Saturday of every month. New Life Furniture Bank of Walpole will be on-site to accept specific items of furniture and household goods for families in need. In 2021, Dover residents donated over 10 truckloads (18 tons) of items put to good use by over 57 clients (170+ people) served by this initiative. New Life is a non-profit organization that accepts these items to provide them at no charge to those in need. It does not accept items that need repair. If an item is not suitable for a family member or friend, it is not suitable for donation, please check their website for acceptable items www.newlifefb.org. Volunteers are needed to staff the truck for two-hour shifts on those dates. Sign up [HERE](#).



Dover Town Library

Check out the Children & Family programs coming up in the next couple of months!

- Building Zone - Mondays from 2:30pm to 4:30pm
 - Design and build imaginative structures using LEGO®, DUPLO®, giant bricks, and KEVA® building planks. No registration necessary. We'll have blocks for kids of all ages. What will you build?
- Pop-Up Playtime - Tuesdays and Fridays from 10:30am to 12:30pm
 - Young children and their caregivers are invited to join us this winter for Pop-Up Playtime, on Tuesday and Friday mornings. Drop by the Children's Room anytime between 10:30am and 12:30pm to enjoy a changing array of sensory, building, movement, and art activities

Don't forget to check out the [Library's Events page](#) to stay up to date with upcoming events!

For more information, please contact Liam O'Keefe via e-mail at lokeefe@doverma.gov



Boards and Committees: Want to contribute to next month's newsletter?
Please submit content to Ruth at aandrtownsend@yahoo.com by February 15



Click below to stay updated on Town news

